

Homespun Community Dancing



Visit Preparation (For the School Contact)

Thank you for inviting us to teach TRADITIONAL DANCE AND MUSIC at your school. In preparation for our work together, we'd like to let you know a bit about what to expect.

Our Goals for the Visit

- Teach skills in a variety of dance forms
- Encourage social skills required to dance in a group
- Instill respect for each other, dance traditions and music
- Strengthen the connection between music and dance
- Give content, history and vocabulary about the dances and music
- Leave the teachers with skills and resources to help them with their dance curriculum
- Help strengthen the connection between the school and community by dancing together
- HAVE FUN!

What Teachers, Parents and Administrators can do to help:

BEFORE OUR ARRIVAL:

- Create a schedule that balances your content needs with the room usage. We suggest first working with the physical education teachers on their schedule, as our visits are often scheduled in the gym. We invite you to consult us during this process if you like. Please send us a copy of the program schedule as soon as it's available.

We suggest:

- Up to 6 periods a day
- One (1) hour for lunch if possible
- At least one (1) adult present for each class (teachers, parents, etc.)
- Please, no gym or band classes concurrent in the same space or adjoining spaces.
- If absolutely necessary, we can travel from class to class

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- Announce to students before the program:
 - Everyone participates: children, teachers and parent volunteers
 - This is a program of Community Dancing, some dances are danced with partners, some without
 - Partners can be any gender
 - Participants should wear cool, comfortable clothing (students need not change clothes for dancing)
- When an Evening Family Dance is scheduled, a flyer should be sent home with all students one week in advance. (A flyer template is available.)

DURING HOMESPUN'S VISIT:

- Join in the dances. Your enthusiastic participation sets the tone for the entire visit and is an important factor in the dancing success of your students.
- Help with the choosing of partners and be prepared to dance with the reluctant children
- Help with discipline if necessary (it's awkward and time-consuming for the dance instructor to have to address children who may be disruptive, not paying attention, or doing unsafe moves -- i.e. high kicks, wild swings, mock punches, etc.).
- Involve special needs children. Even wheelchair-bound students enjoy the dance!

PARENT AND OTHER PARTICIPATION

Parents and other volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend classes all week, and will be asked to join in.